Amendment to the Claims:

1.   (Original)   An extruded starch product prepared by a process comprising:

providing a hydroxyalkyl starch, said starch being derivatized with a hydroxyalkyl substituent having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms; and

extruding said starch in an extruder, said extruder having a barrel, a die, and at least one rotating shaft, said barrel having at least first and second zones, said first zone being upstream from said second zone, the temperature in said first zone being insufficient to gelatinize said starch and the temperature in said second zone being sufficient to gelatinize said starch, said starch being extruded in the presence of total moisture in said barrel no greater than about 25% by weight of said starch, said process including the step of controlling the rotational speed of said shaft to impart a specific mechanical energy to said starch sufficient to result in a soluble extruded starch product that is capable of extrusion through said die at said rotational speed, said starch being substantially completely soluble in water at 25°C and being film-forming in aqueous solution.

2.   (Original)   A starch according to claim 1, said starch having a moisture content below about 15%.

3.   (Original)   A starch according to claim 1, said starch having a moisture content ranging from about 9% to about 12%.

4.   (Previously Presented) A starch according to claim 1, said starch being a granular starch having a particle size distribution such that at least 90% by weight of the starch particles pass through a 180 micron screen prior to extrusion.

5.   (Previously Presented) A starch according to claim 1, said starch being film-forming in aqueous solution and being gelatinized to a gelatinization level, said gelatinization level being at least 95%.

6.   (Previously Presented) A starch product according to claim 1, said starch product being dried to a moisture content between about 9% and 12%.

7.   (Previously Presented) A starch product according to claim 1, said starch product being a ground starch product.